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DEC 16 1974

Benoit B. Mandelbrot
P. O. Box 218, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

December 2, 1974

Prof. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

The reprint you requested is enclosed, together with its privately circulated Part II. Thank you for the references you have included in your note, and of which I did not know. So far, I could only check the one in Biometrika, and I find no overlap with my work.

Appendix B (in my Part II) describes how Gunther Stent got Max to involve me in this affair, back in 1968. It took me years to write it all down, and it took Sam Karlin (an editor of the journals to which I sent my piece) several years before he stopped sitting on it, while waiting to find time to read it carefully!

Your comments would be most welcome. Possibly outdated discussions with Donald Glaser had seemed to indicate that further work along these lines would be useful. While I believe I know how to start it, I have not yet been motivated to do so. As the references suggest, is is not at-all my principal line of work.

Sincerely,



Benoit B. Mandelbrot
IBM Fellow
Institute Lecturer at M.I.T.

BBM:cm

Enc.